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Lawrence C. Little  
508-676-9446  
Inventor: Application/Control Number 10/827,140  
Welding Torch Striker with Safety Stopper

James G. Barrow  
Examiner  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Fax 571-273-8300

February 4, 2006

Subject: Informal Response to Office Action for application/Control Number 10/827,140

Dear James,

Respectfully, the Safety Stopper is *not* a tool holster or a tool holder. The Safety Stopper is a safety device that is designed specifically to fit on a welding torch striker and block the open frame. Once the Safety Stopper is placed on the striker it is never removed. It becomes a permanent part of the Striker. Claims 1-37 apply exclusively to the Welding Torch Striker with Safety Stopper. They do not apply to a tool holster or tool holder. In fact the words holster and/or holder do not even appear in the vocabulary in either the disclosure or the claims. You made reference to prior art. Webb (5,501,382) and C.T. Manz (3,239,057). These are tool holders and tool holsters. They are *not* safety devices. They are *not* designed to fit on a Welding Torch Striker and block the open frame.

Stern (6,910,578)  
Garland (6,085,952) and (5,388,740)  
Tuthill (4,496,088)  
A Inwood (3,516,585)  
G.V. Steffens (4,441,251)  
Nigh (D451, 276)  
Harker et al (433,229)  
Cooper (4,595,136)  
H.S. Grace (2,325,506)

None of these are Safety devices. All of these are tool holders and tool holsters. The Safety Stopper is a safety device and is *not* a holster or holder. The pouches on the Safety Stopper are generic and incidental. I invented a safety device that is designed to fit on a welding torch striker. I did not invent a tool holster or tool holder. Claims 1-37 apply exclusively to the Welding Torch Striker with Safety Stopper. Your consideration in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lawrence C. Little